

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9-18 and 20-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends Claims 9-11, 13-17, 19 and 20, cancels Claim 8, and adds new Claims 21-31.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 13, 16-18, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8-12, 14, 15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Helle et al. (U.S. 4,412,188).

Applicant has amended allowable Claims 13, 16, 17, and 20 to be in independent form including all of the features of Claim 8 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Helle et al. is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 13, 16, 17, and 20 are allowable. Claims 9-12, 14, 15, 18, 19, and new claims 21-31 depend upon Claims 13, 16, and 17, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claims 13, 16, and 17 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

Application No. 10/522,562  
September 7, 2006  
Reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2006  
Page 10 of 10

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 7, 2006

/Christopher A. Bennett #46,710/  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

**KEATING & BENNETT, LLP**  
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 850  
Tyson's Corner, VA 22102  
Telephone: (703) 637-1480  
Facsimile: (703) 637-1499

Joseph R. Keating  
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett  
Registration No. 46,710